

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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**Chauncey Briggs, # 291072,**

Petitioner,

vs.

**State of South Carolina;**  
**Robert P. Bollinger,** Warden of Trenton Correctional  
Institution; and  
**Henry McMaster,** Attorney General of South  
Carolina,

Respondents.

) **C/A No. 2:05-2277-CMC-RSC**

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) **Report and Recommendation**

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## ***Background of this Case***

The petitioner is an inmate at the Trenton Correctional Institution of the South Carolina Department of Corrections (SCDC). On February 23, 2003, in the Court of General Sessions for Spartanburg County, the petitioner pled guilty to possession of marijuana with intent to distribute (first offence), distribution of marijuana (two counts), possession of Xanax®, and possession of marijuana with intent to distribute within a half-mile of a school. He was sentenced to “six (6) years 85%” and “3 years probation[.]” (Petition, at page

2). The petitioner lists 02-GS-42-2755 and 02-GS-42-2756 as the docket numbers for the criminal case.

No direct appeal was filed in the petitioner's criminal case. The petitioner filed an application for post-conviction relief (Case No. 2003-CP-42-2904) on August 8, 2003. The Court of Common Pleas dismissed the application for post-conviction relief on February 10, 2005. No appeal was filed in the post-conviction case. The petitioner states that he (the petitioner) was never advised by his "PCR Lawyer" that he could file an appeal in the post-conviction case.

The petitioner raises three (3) grounds in the petition. Those grounds are: (1) sentence received by petitioner exceeds maximum allowed by law; (2) unlawfully induced guilty plea because of the trial court's lack of jurisdiction; and (3) ineffective assistance of counsel. Grounds 1 and 3 were presented to the Court of Common Pleas in the petitioner's post-conviction case. Ground 2 has not been presented to a South Carolina court.

## ***Discussion***

Under established local procedure in this judicial district, a careful review has been made of the *pro se* petition pursuant to the procedural provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 1915 and the Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996. The review has been conducted in light of the following precedents: Denton v. Hernandez, 504 U.S. 25, 118 L.Ed.2d 340, 112 S.Ct. 1728, 1992 U.S. LEXIS® 2689 (1992); Neitzke v. Williams, 490 U.S. 319, 324-325, 1989 U.S. LEXIS® 2231 (1989); Haines v. Kerner, 404 U.S. 519 (1972); Nasim v. Warden, Maryland House of Correction, 64 F.3d 951, 1995 U.S.App. LEXIS® 26108 (4th Cir. 1995)(*en banc*), *cert. denied*, 64 U.S.L.W. 3623, 134 L.Ed.2d 219, 116 S.Ct. 1273 (1996); Todd v. Baskerville, 712 F.2d 70 (4th Cir. 1983); and Boyce v. Alizaduh, 595 F.2d 948 (4th Cir. 1979).<sup>1</sup> *Pro se* complaints and petitions are held to a less stringent standard than those drafted by attorneys, Gordon v. Leeke, 574 F.2d 1147, 1151 (4th Cir.), *cert. denied*, Leeke v. Gordon, 439 U.S. 970 (1978), and a federal district court is

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<sup>1</sup>Boyce has been held by some authorities to have been abrogated in part, on other grounds, by Neitzke v. Williams, 490 U.S. 319 (1989)(insofar as Neitzke establishes that a complaint that fails to state a claim, under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6), does not by definition merit *sua sponte* dismissal under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B)(i) [formerly 28 U.S.C. § 1915(d)], as “frivolous”).

charged with liberally construing a complaint or petition filed by a *pro se* litigant to allow the development of a potentially meritorious case. See Hughes v. Rowe, 449 U.S. 5, 9-10 & n. 7 (1980)(*per curiam*); and Cruz v. Beto, 405 U.S. 319 (1972). When a federal court is evaluating a *pro se* complaint or petition, the plaintiff's or petitioner's allegations are assumed to be true. Fine v. City of New York, 529 F.2d 70, 74 (2nd Cir. 1975). Even under this less stringent standard, the petition is subject to summary dismissal because one ground is not exhausted at all and there are procedural defaults for the remaining grounds because no appeal was filed in the petitioner's post-conviction case. The requirement of liberal construction does not mean that the court can ignore a clear failure in the pleading to allege facts which set forth a claim currently cognizable in a federal district court. Weller v. Department of Social Services, 901 F.2d 387, 1990 U.S.App. LEXIS® 6120 (4th Cir. 1990).

With respect to his convictions and sentence, the petitioner's sole federal remedies are a writ of habeas corpus under either 28 U.S.C. § 2254 or 28 U.S.C. § 2241, which remedies can be sought only after the petitioner has exhausted his state court remedies. "It is the rule in this country that assertions of error in criminal proceedings must first be raised in state court

in order to form the basis for relief in habeas. Claims not so raised are considered defaulted." Beard v. Green, 523 U.S. 371, 375, 1998 U.S. LEXIS® 2465 (1998)(citing Wainwright v. Sykes, 433 U.S. 72 (1977)). See also 28 U.S.C. § 2254(b); Braden v. 30th Judicial Circuit Court, 410 U.S. 484, 490-491 (1973); Picard v. Connor, 404 U.S. 270 (1971); Schandelmeier v. Cunningham, 819 F.2d 52, 53 (3d Cir. 1986)(exhaustion required under § 2241).

The exhaustion requirements under § 2254 are fully set forth in Matthews v. Evatt, 105 F.3d 907, 1997 U.S.App. LEXIS® 1319 (4th Cir.), *cert. denied*, Matthews v. Moore, 522 U.S. 833, 1997 U.S. LEXIS® 4939 (1997):

In the interest of giving state courts the first opportunity to consider alleged constitutional errors occurring in a defendant's state trial and sentencing, a § 2254 petitioner is required to "exhaust" all state court remedies before a federal district court can entertain his claims. Thus, a federal habeas court may consider only those issues which have been "fairly presented" to the state courts. . . .

To satisfy the exhaustion requirement, a habeas petitioner must fairly present his claim to the state's highest court. The burden of proving that a claim has been exhausted lies with the petitioner.

The exhaustion requirement, though not jurisdictional, is strictly enforced[.]

Matthews v. Evatt, 105 F.3d at 910-911 (citations omitted from quotation).

In order to exhaust his or her non-direct appeal claims in state court, a South Carolina petitioner must file an application for relief under the South Carolina Uniform Post Conviction Procedure Act, S.C. Code Ann. §§ 17-27-10 to 17-27-160. The applicant may allege constitutional violations in a post-conviction proceeding but only if the issue could not have been raised by direct appeal. Gibson v. State, 329 S.C. 37, 41, 495 S.E.2d 426, 428, 1998 S.C. LEXIS® 6 (1998)(citing S.C. Code Ann. § 17-27-20(a)(1), (b); and Simmons v. State, 264 S.C. 417, 215 S.E.2d 883 (1975)). "Exhaustion includes filing of an application, the rendering of an order adjudicating the issues, and petitioning for, or knowingly waiving, appellate review." Gibson v. State, *supra*, 329 S.C. at 42, 495 S.E.2d at 428. The Supreme Court of South Carolina has specifically stated: "[W]hen the claim has been presented to the Court of Appeals or the Supreme Court, and relief has been denied, the litigant shall be deemed to have exhausted all available state remedies." In Re Exhaustion of State Remedies in Criminal and Post-Conviction Relief Cases, 321 S.C. 563, 564, 471 S.E.2d 454 (1990); and State v. McKennedy, 348 S.C. 270, 559 S.E.2d 850, 2002 S.C. LEXIS® 26 (2002).<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>Where a habeas petitioner has failed to exhaust his or her state remedies and the state court would now find his or her claims procedurally barred, further exhaustion is not required. See Coleman v. Thompson, 501 U.S. 722, 735 n. 1, 1991 U.S. LEXIS® 3640 (continued...)

Exhaustion of state court remedies is required by 28 U.S.C. § 2254(b)(1)(A). As earlier stated, the petitioner's answers in the petition reveal that neither he (the petitioner) nor his post-conviction counsel filed an appeal (a petition for certiorari) in his post-conviction case. If a South Carolina prisoner's application for post-conviction relief is denied or dismissed by a Court of Common Pleas, he or she can file an appeal in the post-conviction case by filing a petition for writ of certiorari. See § 17-27-100, South Carolina Code of Laws; and Knight v. State, 284 S.C. 138, 325 S.E.2d 535 (1985).

The United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit has held that South Carolina's Uniform Post-Conviction Procedure Act, which is currently codified at § 17-27-10 *et seq.*, South Carolina Code of Laws, is a viable state-court remedy. See Miller v. Harvey, 566 F.2d 879, 880-881 (4th Cir. 1977), *cert. denied*, 439 U.S. 838 (1978); and Patterson v. Leeke, 556 F.2d 1168, 1170-1173 (4th Cir.), *cert. denied*, 434 U.S. 929 (1977).

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<sup>2</sup>(...continued)

(1991); Breard v. Pruett, 134 F.3d 615, 619, 1998 U.S.App. LEXIS® 892 (4th Cir. 1998). However, the federal court is precluded from hearing a procedurally defaulted claim unless the petitioner "can demonstrate cause for the default and actual prejudice as a result of the alleged violation of federal law, or demonstrate that failure to consider the claim[] will result in a fundamental miscarriage of justice." Matthews v. Evatt, *supra*, 105 F.3d at 916 (quoting Coleman v. Thompson, *supra*, 501 U.S. at 750). This standard has been referred to as a "demanding burden." Townes v. Murray, 68 F.3d 840, 847, 1995 U.S.App. LEXIS® 30789 (4th Cir. 1995).

If a Court of Common Pleas denies the South Carolina prisoner's application for post-conviction relief or dismisses the application for post-conviction relief, a prisoner *must* seek appellate review by the Supreme Court of South Carolina of that disposition from the Court of Common Pleas, or federal collateral review of the grounds raised in his or her application for post-conviction relief will be barred by a procedural default. See Whitley v. Bair, 802 F.2d 1487, 1500 & n. 27 (4th Cir. 1986), *cert. denied*, 480 U.S. 951 (1987); Mason v. Procunier, 748 F.2d 852, 853-854 (4th Cir. 1984), *cert. denied*, Mason v. Sielaff, 471 U.S. 1009 (1985); and Strader v. Allsbrook, 656 F.2d 67, 68 (4th Cir. 1981). Hence, by virtue of the failure to file an appeal in the post-conviction case, the viable state remedy of an appeal in a post-conviction case is not exhausted.

Although deficiencies in a post-conviction proceeding are not cognizable under 28 U.S.C. § 2254, see Pennsylvania v. Finley, 481 U.S. 551 (1987), Bryant v. Maryland, 848 F.2d 492, 493 (4th Cir. 1988)(collecting cases holding that errors in a state post-conviction proceeding "cannot serve as a basis for federal habeas corpus relief"), and 28 U.S.C. § 2254(i), South Carolina case law allows a prisoner who claims that he or she was denied the right of appeal *in a post-conviction case* to seek a ***belated appeal*** in the post-conviction



case. See Austin v. State, No. 23256, 1990 S.C. LEXIS® 172, filed August 27, 1990 (later withdrawn and revised), which was replaced by Austin v. State, 305 S.C. 453, 409 S.E.2d 395, 1991 S.C. LEXIS® 195 (1991). Austin v. State merely gives a post-conviction applicant, for whom relief is denied after a hearing, the appeal allowed by § 17-27-100 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, upon a reliable finding (in a subsequent post-conviction hearing) that the applicant was denied an opportunity to seek appellate review. The Supreme Court of South Carolina made it clear that Austin was based on a South Carolina statute, not on the Constitution of the United States. See Aice v. State, 305 S.C. 448, 409 S.E.2d 392, 1991 S.C. LEXIS® 194 (1991).

In summary, South Carolina law provides a mechanism whereby the petitioner might cure the procedural default and seek a belated appeal in his post-conviction case: the filing of a new application for post-conviction to raise the denial of right of appeal in the original post-conviction case. Estrada v. Witkowski, 816 F.Supp. 408, 414, 1993 U.S.Dist. LEXIS® 3411 (D.S.C. 1993). If the petitioner files such an application for post-conviction relief and the Court of Common Pleas denies post-conviction relief or dismisses the application for post-conviction relief, the petitioner must seek appellate review

by the Supreme Court of South Carolina of that disposition from the Court of Common Pleas, or federal collateral review of the grounds raised in that application will be barred by a procedural default. Whitley v. Bair, *supra*, 802 F.2d at 1500 & n. 27.

Since the petitioner has two (2) viable state court remedies — a new application for post-conviction relief (to seek a belated appeal in his first post-conviction case and to submit the issue of involuntary guilty plea relating to the trial court's lack of subject matter jurisdiction<sup>3</sup>) and, if necessary, an appeal in that new post-conviction case — which have not been exhausted, the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina should not keep this case on its docket while the petitioner is exhausting his state remedies. See Galloway v. Stephenson, 510 F. Supp. 840, 846 (M.D.N.C. 1981): "When state court remedies have not been exhausted, absent special circumstances, a federal habeas court may not retain the case on its docket,

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<sup>3</sup>Ineffective assistance of counsel may arise out of a guilty plea proceeding, James Harvey Jackson v. State, 342 S.C. 95, 535 S.E.2d 928, 2000 S.C. LEXIS® 180, 2000 WESTLAW® 1153392 (2000)(ineffective assistance may be shown where attorney wrongly advised petitioner that charge was a misdemeanor; charge was, in fact, a felony), or a jury trial, Dawkins v. State, 346 S.C. 151, 551 S.E.2d 260, 2001 S.C. LEXIS® 145 (2001)(post-conviction relief granted because of ineffective assistance of counsel arising out of attorney's failure to object to hearsay testimony, in trial for criminal sexual conduct, that designated petitioner as the perpetrator of sexual offenses). Moreover, lack of jurisdiction can also be raised in an application for post-conviction relief. See Weinhauer v. State, 334 S.C. 327, 513 S.E.2d 840, 1999 S.C. LEXIS® 53 (1999); and Campbell v. State, 342 S.C. 100, 535 S.E.2d 928, 2000 S.C. LEXIS® 182 (2000).

pending exhaustion, but should dismiss the petition." See *a/so Pitchess v. Davis*, 421 U.S. 482, 490 (1975); *Leonard v. Hammond*, 804 F.2d 838, 843 (4th Cir. 1986)("Generally, when plaintiffs have failed to exhaust state remedies, the actions are dismissed[.]"), which concerned "complaints" construed as habeas petitions; and *Lawson v. Dixon*, 3 F.3d 743, 749 n. 4, 1993 U.S.App. LEXIS® 21646 (4th Cir. 1993), *cert. denied*, 510 U.S. 1171, 127 L.Ed.2d 556, 114 S.Ct. 1208, 1994 U.S. LEXIS® 1917 (1994), where the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit noted: "[E]xhaustion is not a jurisdictional requirement, but rather arises from interests of comity between the state and federal courts."

It is not necessary to stay the above-captioned case because the limitations period under the AEDPA has not yet expired. *Hill v. Braxton*, 277 F.3d 701, 707, 2002 U.S. App. LEXIS® 580 (4th Cir. 2002). Compare the petitioner's situation with the situation described in *Rhines v. Weber*, 73 U.S.L.W. 4263, 161 L.Ed.2d 440, 125 S.Ct. 1528, 2005 U.S. LEXIS® 2930 (2005). In any event, the filing of this federal habeas petition in the above-captioned case does not toll the limitations period for filing a timely petition under 28 U.S.C. § 2254. *Duncan v. Walker*, 533 U.S. 167, 150 L.Ed.2d 251, 121 S.Ct. 2120, 2001 U.S. LEXIS® 4493 (2001). Also, the filing of this

federal petition does not toll the one-year limitations period of § 17-27-45, South Carolina Code of Laws. Green v. State, 353 S.C. 29, 30, 576 S.E.2d 182, 183, 2003 S.C. LEXIS® 19 (2003). Hence, the petitioner should quickly file a new application for post-conviction relief in the Court of Common Pleas for Spartanburg County. In that new application for post-conviction relief, the petitioner should seek a belated appeal in his post-conviction case and present his ground of involuntary guilty plea because of the trial court's lack of jurisdiction.

For the petitioner's information, the petitioner can obtain post-conviction forms from the Clerk of Court for Spartanburg County (whose address is Clerk of Court for Spartanburg County, 180 Magnolia Street, Spartanburg, South Carolina 29306) or from the South Carolina Judicial Department website's Forms Section ([www.scourts.org](http://www.scourts.org)). The petitioner should be mindful that the General Assembly has enacted limitations periods for post-conviction cases. See 1995 S.C. Acts 7, which has been codified at Section 17-27-45, South Carolina Code of Laws:

(A) An application for relief filed pursuant to this chapter must be filed within one year after the entry of a judgment of conviction or within one year after the sending of the remittitur to the lower court from an appeal or the filing of the final decision upon an appeal, whichever is later.

(B) When a court whose decisions are binding upon the Supreme Court of this State or the Supreme Court of this State holds that the Constitution of the United States or the Constitution of South Carolina, or both, impose upon state criminal proceedings a substantive standard not previously recognized or a right not in existence at the time of the state court trial, and if the standard or right is intended to be applied retroactively, an application under this chapter may be filed not later than one year after the date on which the standard or right was determined to exist.

(C) If the applicant contends that there is evidence of material facts not previously presented and heard that requires vacation of the conviction or sentence, the application must be filed under this chapter within one year after the date of actual discovery of the facts by the applicant or after the date when the facts could have been ascertained by the exercise of reasonable diligence.

See also Sutton v. State, 361 S.C. 644, 606 S.E.2d 779, 2004 S.C. LEXIS® 285 (2004); Peloquin v. State, 321 S.C. 468, 469-470, 409 S.E.2d 606, 607, 1996 S.C. LEXIS® 57 (1996); and Leamon v. State, 363 S.C. 432, 611 S.E.2d 494, 2005 S.C. LEXIS® 97 (2005)(prisoner's incarceration in another jurisdiction does not toll limitations period of § 17-27-45). Cf. Cooper v. State, 338 S.C. 202, 525 S.E.2d 886, 2000 S.C. LEXIS® 39 (2000); and Jernigan v. State, 340 S.C. 256, 531 S.E.2d 507, 2000 S.C. LEXIS® 95 (2000).

As earlier stated, if a South Carolina prisoner's application for post-conviction relief is denied or dismissed by a Court of Common Pleas, he or

she can file an appeal in that post-conviction case. See § 17-27-100, South Carolina Code of Laws; and Knight v. State, *supra*. In fact, if a Court of Common Pleas denies the South Carolina prisoner's application for post-conviction relief or dismisses the application for post-conviction relief, a prisoner *must* seek appellate review by the Supreme Court of South Carolina of that disposition from the Court of Common Pleas, or federal collateral review of the grounds raised in his or her application for post-conviction relief will be barred by a procedural default. See Whitley v. Bair, 802 F.2d 1487, 1500 & n. 27 (4th Cir. 1986), *cert. denied*, 480 U.S. 951 (1987); Mason v. Procunier, 748 F.2d 852, 853-854 (4th Cir. 1984), *cert. denied*, Mason v. Sielaff, 471 U.S. 1009 (1985); and Strader v. Allsbrook, 656 F.2d 67, 68 (4th Cir. 1981). Moreover, some South Carolina prisoners have been successful on such appeals in their post-conviction cases. See, e.g., Vaughn v. State, 362 S.C. 163, 607 S.E.2d 72, 73-76, 2004 S.C. LEXIS® 296 (2004); and Stevens v. State, 2005 S.C. LEXIS® 221, 2005 WESTLAW® 1719044 (Supreme Court of South Carolina, July 25, 2005).

Since the petitioner has yet to exhaust two viable state court remedies — an application for post-conviction relief and, if necessary, an appeal in the post-conviction case, this court should not keep this habeas corpus case on

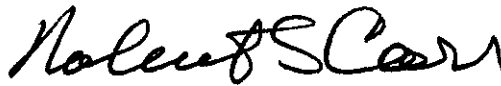
its docket while the petitioner is exhausting his state court remedies. See Galloway v. Stephenson, 510 F. Supp. 840, 846 (M.D.N.C. 1981): "When state court remedies have not been exhausted, absent special circumstances, a federal habeas court may not retain the case on its docket, pending exhaustion, but should dismiss the petition." See also Pitchess v. Davis, 421 U.S. 482, 490 (1975); and Lawson v. Dixon, 3 F.3d 743, 749 n. 4, 1993 U.S.App. LEXIS® 21646 (4th Cir. 1993), *cert. denied*, 510 U.S. 1171, 127 L.Ed.2d 556, 114 S.Ct. 1208, 1994 U.S. LEXIS® 1917 (1994), where the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit noted: "[E]xhaustion is not a jurisdictional requirement, but rather arises from interests of comity between the state and federal courts."

## ***Recommendation***

Accordingly, it is recommended that the petition for writ of habeas corpus be dismissed *without prejudice* and *without requiring the respondents to file a return*. See Allen v. Perini, 424 F.2d 134, 141 (6th Cir.)(federal district courts have duty to screen habeas corpus petitions and eliminate burden placed on respondents caused by ordering an unnecessary answer or return),

*cert. denied*, 400 U.S. 906 (1970); Toney v. Gammon, 79 F.3d 693, 697, 1996 U.S.App. LEXIS® 5804 (8th Cir. 1996) ("However, a petition may be summarily dismissed if the record clearly indicates that the petitioner's claims are either barred from review or without merit."); Baker v. Marshall, 1995 U.S.Dist. LEXIS® 4614, \*2-\*3, 1995 WESTLAW® 150451 (N.D.Cal., March 31, 1995) ("The District Court may enter an order for the summary dismissal of a habeas petition if it plainly appears from the face of the petition and any exhibits annexed to it that the petitioner is not entitled to relief in this Court."); and the Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996. The petitioner's attention is directed to the important notice on the next page.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert S. Carr  
United States Magistrate Judge

Charleston, South Carolina

August ~~16~~, 2005



**Notice of Right to File Objections to Magistrate Judge's "Report and Recommendation"**  
**&**  
**The *Serious Consequences* of a Failure to Do So**

The petitioner is hereby notified that any objections to the attached Report and Recommendation (or Order and Recommendation) must be filed within **ten (10) days** of the date of service. 28 U.S.C. § 636 and Fed. R. Civ. P. 72(b). The time calculation of this ten-day period excludes weekends and holidays and provides for an additional three days for filing by mail. Fed. R. Civ. P. 6. A magistrate judge makes only a recommendation, and the authority to make a final determination in this case rests with the United States District Judge. See Mathews v. Weber, 423 U.S. 261, 270-271 (1976); and Estrada v. Witkowski, 816 F. Supp. 408, 410, 1993 U.S. Dist. LEXIS® 3411 (D.S.C. 1993).

During the ten-day period for filing objections, **but not thereafter**, a party must file with the Clerk of Court specific, written objections to the Report and Recommendation, if he or she wishes the United States District Judge to consider any objections. **Any written objections must specifically identify the portions of the Report and Recommendation to which objections are made and the basis for such objections.** See Keeler v. Pea, 782 F. Supp. 42, 43-44, 1992 U.S. Dist. LEXIS® 8250 (D.S.C. 1992); and Oliverson v. West Valley City, 875 F. Supp. 1465, 1467, 1995 U.S. Dist. LEXIS® 776 (D.Utah 1995). Failure to file specific, written objections shall constitute a waiver of a party's right to further judicial review, including appellate review, if the recommendation is accepted by the United States District Judge. See United States v. Schronce, 727 F.2d 91, 94 & n. 4 (4th Cir.), *cert. denied*, Schronce v. United States, 467 U.S. 1208 (1984); and Wright v. Collins, 766 F.2d 841, 845-847 & nn. 1-3 (4th Cir. 1985). Moreover, if a party files specific objections to a portion of a magistrate judge's Report and Recommendation, but does not file specific objections to other portions of the Report and Recommendation, that party waives appellate review of the portions of the magistrate judge's Report and Recommendation to which he or she did not object. In other words, a party's failure to object to one issue in a magistrate judge's Report and Recommendation precludes that party from subsequently raising that issue on appeal, even if objections are filed on other issues. Howard v. Secretary of HHS, 932 F.2d 505, 508-509, 1991 U.S. App. LEXIS® 8487 (6th Cir. 1991). See also Praylow v. Martin, 761 F.2d 179, 180 n. 1 (4th Cir.) (party precluded from raising on appeal factual issue to which it did not object in the district court), *cert. denied*, 474 U.S. 1009 (1985). In Howard, *supra*, the Court stated that general, non-specific objections are *not* sufficient:

A general objection to the entirety of the [magistrate judge's] report has the same effects as would a failure to object. The district court's attention is not focused on any specific issues for review, thereby making the initial reference to the [magistrate judge] useless. \* \* \* This duplication of time and effort wastes judicial resources rather than saving them, and runs contrary to the purposes of the Magistrates Act. We would hardly countenance an appellant's brief simply objecting to the district court's determination without explaining the source of the error.

Accord Lockert v. Faulkner, 843 F.2d 1015, 1017-1019 (7th Cir. 1988), where the Court held that the appellant, who proceeded *pro se* in the district court, was barred from raising issues on appeal that he did not specifically raise in his objections to the district court:

Just as a complaint stating only 'I complain' states no claim, an objection stating only "I object" preserves no issue for review. \* \* \* A district judge should not have to guess what arguments an objecting party depends on when reviewing a [magistrate judge's] report.

See also Branch v. Martin, 886 F.2d 1043, 1046, 1989 U.S. App. LEXIS® 15,084 (8th Cir. 1989) ("no de novo review if objections are untimely or general"), which involved a *pro se* litigant; and Goney v. Clark, 749 F.2d 5, 6 n. 1 (3rd Cir. 1984) (*per curiam*) ("plaintiff's objections lacked the specificity necessary to trigger *de novo* review"). **This notice, hereby, apprises the petitioner of the consequences of a failure to file specific, written objections.** See Wright v. Collins, *supra*; and Small v. Secretary of HHS, 892 F.2d 15, 16, 1989 U.S. App. LEXIS® 19,302 (2nd Cir. 1989). Filing by mail pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 5 may be accomplished by mailing objections addressed as follows:

Larry W. Propes, Clerk  
 United States District Court  
 Post Office Box 835  
 Charleston, South Carolina 29402